**Methodology:**

I chose to begin the unit by using a WebQuest. This is one of the authentic activities we learned about during the course. The WebQuest following Best Practices by being student centered. As the teacher, I have done the initial research and selected websites for students to explore, but it will be up to the students to dig into the websites and obtain information that addresses the standards being covered in this unit. Along with the WebQuest, I developed a type of “answer document,” which I refer to as the Citizen Profile. As part of the WebQuest, students are pretending to be a citizen of each of the civilizations. As they research and learn about each civilization, they answer different questions on the Citizen Profile. Each box on the document asks a question that, when answered by the student, will address all parts of both standards being covered in this unit. Following the completion of the WebQuest, students will move on to completing activities associated with the artifacts found in the artifact box. They are required to complete the three activities I have chosen, but are able to choose their fourth activity for each civilization. Student choice is a part of Best Practices. Additionally, I gave students the opportunity to create their own activity for their choice activities. This allows them the freedom to be as creative as they’d like. After completing the activities, each student will present their activities within a small group. Students will then fill out evaluation forms for their peers based on their presentations, as well as self-assessments based on their own presentations. It is my hope that students will learn from one another and pick up on some things that they may not have found in their own research. On the last day, students will display their finished “artifacts” or activities around the classroom, creating a class museum. Students will walk around observing each other’s finished products and will fill out a museum information card using information from each other’s artifacts. To conclude the lesson, we will finish with a whole class discussion. This will be a time for students to reflect on all aspects of the unit, from the different activities completed to the information obtained. They will also share information they included on their museum information cards. The cards will be collected at the end of the class period and used as a type of formal assessment.

These methods incorporate several Best Practices, including rich class discussion, small and whole group work, multiple types of assessments, reflection, authentic learning and social learning. These elements contributed to the planning and teaching of the unit because these practices place an emphasis on having an active classroom. In order to have a classroom that uses best practices, a teacher must think outside the box a little bit and strive to create lessons that are engaging and meaningful to students. With each activity I developed, I tried to utilize teaching methods and activities that students would enjoy and learn from.